Chinese forces over an attack on British shipping, at Wanhsien, on the upper Yangtze, further strained the relations between the two countries. When, in 1926 and 1927, the Nationalists moved northward into the Yangtze Valley, there was widespread propaganda against "imperialism," particularly as represented by the British. Foreigners, especially British and Americans, wen harassed, in some instances by the armed seizure of their properties and often by persecutions inflicted on their Chinese associates, by local boycotts and the cutting off of their supplies, and by threatened mob action. These conditions and the urgent advice or actual orders of their consuls and the pleas of their Chinese friends led many to come out of the interior and either to seek refuge in the port cities or to go abroad. The British concessions at Hankow and Kiukiang were seized by the Nationalists, and only large forces of foreign marines kept the radicals from annexing the settlements at Shanghai. Under the circumstances, foreigners felt it necessary to yield to some of the demands — especially since several years before 1925 Great Britain, against whom much of the agitation was now directed, had embarked on a policy of relaxing her special privileges in China. The Shanghai Mixed Court, by which Chinese defendants were tried, and which had been taken over by the consular body in 1911, was restored to Chinese control on January 1st, 1927. Chinese were admitted to membership on the councils of the French Concession and the International Settlement in Shanghai, of the British concession in Tientsin, and of the International Settlement (Kulangsu) at Amoy. The British concessions at Hankow, Kiukiang, Chin-

kiang, and Amoy were returned to the Chinese, the first two in 1927, the third in 1929, and the fourth (not Kulangsu but a small area in the city) in 1930. In 1929 Belgium agreed to return her concession in Tientsin. Several concessions remained in the hands of the powers, however, and in 1930 Japan declined to accede to China's suggestion that she restore the one held by her in Hankow.

The Chinese, moreover, regained the right to fix their own import and export duties. For some time they had been working toward this end, and a prolonged international conference on the question was held at Peking in 1925 and 1926. In 1928 and early in 1929, practically all the powers, with the exception of Japan,